

Colchester Community and Economic Development Advisory Council (CEDAC) Minutes November 19, 2009

Members Attending: David Usher, Chair, Nanci Glindmyer, Vice-Chair, Mike Mazza, Paul Olsen, James Ehlers, Deborah Winters. Absent: Joe Egan, Bill Peters, J. Churchill Hindes. Others: Kimberly Murray, Pam Brangan, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

Other Business:

The minutes from October 15th were approved with corrections. James made the motion, seconded by Nanci.

CED Office Updates:

Kimberly distributed the results of the Malletts Bay Transit Survey from September. There were a couple of comments including the recent discussion of regionalization of transit services and funding structure. The question came up about where does transit fall in our economic development priorities and how does it impact or address those issues? James asked if it would be helpful to have some data on the impact of the lack of transit on economic development. He also asked about people making investments in their business. What would help grow their business? It would be helpful to have a formal study exploring these and other issues. Kimberly noted that originally we wanted to do that but with no budget for hiring a consultant to gather new data, we decided to do a short concise plan with existing regional data and use it as a platform for dialog with the public, the town boards and the Select Board about the economic future of Colchester.

Kimberly updated CEDAC on the wayfinding sign package. It is on hold permanently as the Select Board does not support the proposed design. We are evaluating our options for a plain green and white sign. Kimberly discussed the FY 2011 budget with the Select Board the week before. They shared some of their ideas of the priorities her work should move toward.

Five Year Strategic Economic Development Plan- Data Collection

Pam Brangan from the Chittenden County Regional Commission came to talk with us about the data she has available to help us with our analysis work on our Economic Development Plan. We reviewed some charts showing the average wage and number of employees by type of industry. We looked at explaining the NAICS or employment codes and highlighting the information and professional and technical service codes. We noted that non-profits are not in the number of employers and average wage charts but is in the hard data it was taken from. We will use the chart showing different towns and who has the most businesses. It would be helpful to show number of employees or jobs as that could show a different picture too.

We explored the charts describing where residents work and live and asked to show by wage too. Not surprising, more residents live and work in Colchester then live here and work somewhere else. Deb noted the growth occurring in Milton and the expansion of their economic center. It seems the town government is really supportive.

The Water Based Recreational Tourism Sub-Committee began meeting. Mike, James, and Nanci are working on it and will bring in a few members of the public to discuss existing tourism opportunities and report back to the CEDAC.

James also mentioned that Joe Bauer from the Island Line Chamber is interested in the Exit 16 Transportation Study recently completed and would like to hear more about it.

The next CEDAC meeting will be our annual Legislative Breakfast Meeting December 17, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dragonfly Cafe. The Council touched on several bullet points of what they feel are important 2010 legislative issues to the business community:

- Qualifying for Federal Transportation safety monies for transportation improvements at Exit 16
- Sustainable regional funding for public transit and after CMAQ funds run out
- Unemployment trust insurance issue
- School funding issue
- Underfunding liability for public employee pensions and benefits for state employees and teachers
- No further pressure on the corporate tax
- All efforts exerted to maintain lowest cost utility rates available
- High priority for private sector job creation/retention in Vermont
- Support funding to improve Lake Champlain water quality
- Support continued funding for Lake Champlain based tourism
- Evaluate and reduce pressure on commercial property tax

Kimberly will forward them on to our local legislators.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kimberly L. Murray, AICP